

# PackBot

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**PackBot** is a series of military robots by iRobot. More than 2000 were used in Iraq and Afghanistan.<sup>[1]</sup> PackBots were the first robots to enter the damaged Fukushima nuclear plant after the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami.<sup>[2]</sup> As of November 2014, the U.S. Army is refurbishing 224 iRobot 510 robots.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Contents

- 1 Current PackBot 510 variants
- 2 Previous PackBot variants
- 3 See also
- 4 References
- 5 External links



PackBot being demonstrated by the French military

## Current PackBot 510 variants

PackBot 510 is the current base model. It uses a videogame-style hand controller to make it more familiar to young operators. Configurations include:

- PackBot 510 with EOD Bomb Disposal Kit designed for improvised explosive device identification and disposal.
- PackBot 510 with Fast Tactical Maneuvering Kit designed for infantry troops tasked with improvised explosive device inspection. This is a lighter weight robot.
- PackBot 510 with First Responder Kit designed to help SWAT teams and other first responders with situational awareness.
- PackBot 510 with HazMat Detection Kit collects air samples to detect chemical and radiological agents.
- PackBot 510 with Fido utilizes the Fido Explosives Detector from ICx Technologies as a payload in order to "sniff" out explosive materials. With the Fido, the PackBot now has the capability of locating explosive devices and subsequently disarming them using on-board robotic capabilities.<sup>[4]</sup>
- PackBot 510 with REDOWL Sniper Detection Kit utilizes the Acoustic Direction Finder from BioMimetic Systems to localize gunshots with azimuth, elevation, and range.<sup>[5]</sup>
- RC2 – U.S. Marine Corps version of the 510 PackBot with a longer and stronger arm, more cameras, communications variations, and better track propulsion.<sup>[6]</sup>



A U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician trains on iRobot's PCC, one of the remote control operation devices used to operate the Packbot.

## Previous PackBot variants

- **PackBot Scout** is the basic configuration. It has five payload bays for assignable purposes and can be dropped from a height of six feet (1.83m) onto concrete without being damaged. The Packbot scout version weighs about 40 pounds (18 kg).

- **PackBot Explorer** has a camera head equipped with multiple cameras, laser pointers, audio and other sensors.
- **PackBot EOD** (explosive-ordnance disposal) can be controlled by radio or wired control to handle situations involving potential explosives, thereby reducing the risk of personal injury.

## See also

- Robot
- Military robot
- Small Unmanned Ground Vehicle
- Foster-Miller TALON

## References

1. "iRobot Delivers 3,000th PackBot". Archived from the original on March 23, 2011.
2. Nakata, Hiroko (2012-01-06). "Domestic robots failed to ride to rescue after No. 1 plant blew". *The Japan Times*. Retrieved January 9, 2012.
3. US Army Works Toward Single Ground Robot ([http://www.defensenews.com/article/20141115/DEFREG02/311150033/US-Army-Works-Toward-Single-Ground-Robot?odyssey=mod\\_sectionstories](http://www.defensenews.com/article/20141115/DEFREG02/311150033/US-Army-Works-Toward-Single-Ground-Robot?odyssey=mod_sectionstories)) - Defensenews.com, 15 November 2014
4. <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2006/November/RDcommand.htm>
5. <http://www.irobot.com/sp.cfm?pageid=314>
6. Marines happily recycle Army bots (<http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/article/20140419/NEWS04/304190028/Marines-happily-recycle-Army-bots>) - MarineCorpstimes.com, 19 April 2014



A U.S. Navy Sailor assigned to an explosive ordnance disposal team poses beside a PackBot.

## External links

- Website of iRobot, the manufacturer of the PackBot (<http://www.irobot.com/>)
- Howstuffworks' website about the PackBot (<http://science.howstuffworks.com/military-robot3.htm>)



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